

Social Credit Explained

Price 50 cents per 100, or

\$4.00 per 1,000 post paid.

"Those who stand on the ground of science, submit their judgment to the crucible of facts"

PREAMBLE

It is not very difficult for most people to understand Social Credit. This little pamphlet is prepared as an easy exposition of the manner in which Social Credit is to be applied in Alberta and, if the people of the Dominion so register their desires on October 14, to the whole of Canada. A study of this short explanation will, the writers believe, assist everyone to arrive at a true understanding of this new idea and to give it the support it merits.

OUR BASIC PREMISE

It is the strict duty of the State, through its Government to organise its economic structure in such a way that no bona fide citizen, man, woman or child, shall be allowed to suffer for the lack of the bare necessities of food, clothing and shelter in the midst of plenty or abundance.

OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

This is the inheritance that falls to the right of the individual citizen living within the bounds of Canada. The pioneering work of our forefathers and the inventive genius of scientists and others have enabled mankind to harness the solar energy and produce machinery that will do the work that was formerly done by man. The great wealth of our natural resources, by these means, has been brought to the very threshold of the individual consumer. At the present time this great wealth is being selfishly manipulated and controlled by a few men known as the "Fifty Big Shots of Canada". This great heritage belongs to us all. Social Credit will leave it as the property of the "Fifty Big Shots". It will neither socialize, nationalize, confiscate nor expropriate it. Social Credit stands for the individual ownership under which this cultural heritage has been stolen from us. Mr. Aberhart has stressed this since he became Premier of Alberta and has already given public assurance to the "Fifty Big Shots of Canada" that their ownership and control will not be molested or endangered.

BASIC DIVIDENDS

To enable each citizen to secure the bare necessities of life, Social Credit promises a basic dividend of \$25.00 a month to every adult person. One question immediately arises:

WHERE IS THE MONEY TO COME FROM?

Social Credit leaves no doubt where the money is to come from. On pages 29, 38, and 41 of his "Social Credit Manual" Mr. Aberhart gives and repeats an illuminating illustration which clears up this question. The money for the basic dividends will be raised by a turnover tax on each and every transaction. The farmer will be taxed for every bushel of wheat he sells, for every pig he markets and for every pound of butter his wife trades in groceries in order that, from the proceeds of this tax, he may secure \$25.00 a month. The worker in the city will be paying this tax on every cigarette he smokes, on every match he lights, on his morning porridge, on his overalls and pencils, for each and every purchase that we make is a "transaction" and Mr. Aberhart tells us frankly that the "levy" will "be collected on each transaction". From the time when, in the morning, we pull on our taxed pants and stockings till, at night, we lay our weary limbs between the taxed sheets, we shall be contributing continually so that we can pay ourselves the basic dividend of \$25.00 a month. But not only will we each have to contribute our own \$25.00 before we can collect, but, in addition, we will be forced to foot the bill for the host of collectors, inspectors and other officials who will be required to collect and administer this "basic dividend". In short, we will be levied about \$30.00 a month in order that we may monthly receive back a "social credit" of \$25.00. A weird and wonderful scheme that will need more, methinks, than the blasphemous invoking of the Deity before the intelligent citizens of Saskatchewan will accept it.

SOCIAL CREDIT IN ACTION

Less than a month ago the people of Alberta elected a Social Credit government. They voted to free themselves from the domination of the "Fifty Big Shots of Canada", from the tentacles of the "banking octopus" whom Aberhart had so roundly denounced in his election campaign, from the "selfish manipulation and control of the predatory interests" who were waxing fat on the misery and suffering of the people. Like the old tribes in Egypt, the people gave the new Moses full power to lead them out of bondage into the promised land.

Within twenty-four hours of his victory, the tune of Mr. Aberhart changed. On the day following the elections he gave a statement to the Canadian Press, assuring the banking octopus, to whom \$18,000,000 were required to be paid, that their share would be looked after. He hastily packed his grip and went to see—the sufferings of the debt ridden farmers?—the needs of the unemployed?—the wants of the tender aged totos who attended the school he taught? Indeed no! He rushed to meet the second largest shareholder of the Royal Bank of Canada, Mr. R. B. Bennett! They met, they talked and Mr. Aberhart, the doughty foe of the "Big Shots", like Saul of Tarsus, saw a great light and emerged from the interview the "Paul" of the banking barons. "I find," he states after the interview is over, "that I have much in common with the policies of Mr. Bennett. We shall not run an official candidate against him in Calgary."

Mr. Aberhart, the modern Paul, dines with Sir Joseph Flavelle and is impressed with the gentleman who runs textile factories "not for the glory of God but for the benefit of the shareholder". He finds that his condemnation of the "Big Shots" was all a mistake, that the Bank of Commerce will co-operate, and becomes convinced that the Bank of Commerce dollars at usury are more effective currency than basic dividends.

From Sir Joseph Flavelle, he hastened to consult the greatest exploiter of labor on the American continent, one of the greatest enemies that organized labor has, Henry Ford, whose conveyor belt system has conveyed more workers to the scrap heap than "Lizzies" to their owners.

A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT

Before the election Mr. Aberhart was attacked by both Liberals and Conservatives. They represented him as a "menace to society". But how different their attitude today! "Give Social Credit a chance" now cries Mackenzie King, in a speech defending capitalism and Mr. Bennett feels that over two million dollars can be entrusted with safety to the evangelist of Social Credit. This united front of Bennett, Aberhart and King should convince all progressively minded people that Mr. Aberhart and Social Credit are but a means of continuing the rule of the "Fifty Big Shots of Canada" and their policy of placing the burden of the depression upon the backs of the workers, farmers and middle class people of Canada.

REAL SOCIAL CREDIT

During the past year, we have heard and still hear, on every side, that conditions have improved. They have—for the Fifty Big Shots! Each month of this year has seen increasing profits flow into their treasuries and pockets. Step by step the government has taken measures to help society—"not for the glory of God"—or the people—but, as Mr. Aberhart's friend, old Joe Flavelle said, "for the benefit of the shareholders". Mr. Bennett and his government have been the spearhead of these efforts—and Mr. Aberhart finds much in common with Mr. Bennett! Harry Stevens took his part in putting them over. In the various provinces, the Liberal governments have done their part also in helping the shareholders. They have exalted the mighty in their seats and the poor they have sent empty away. Everything has been done to ease the burden on the rich and those in poverty have had their noses ground in the dirt.

The increased dividends of the past year must not be allowed to continue. They represent the sum total of the efforts of the bankrupt corner merchant, the worries and cares of the doctor with his patients on relief, the furrowed brows and drawn faces of the working class mothers striving to stretch the shrinking dollars to feed and keep decent their families. This increased social wealth must be expended to relieve the suffering that exists. The form of this wealth is not the shadowy bits of paper that Social Credit promises, but the greenbacks that we are accustomed to give for the goods we buy. We have produced this new wealth and we can win it for our own.

HOW IT CAN BE DONE

At the present time it is the unemployed, the wage earner, the farmer, the man who runs his store in competition with the chain stores, the doctor and the dentist who pay and pay again. Our homes, our families, our security is menaced—because the rich refuse to pay. We have this in common—our suffering—because the Big Shots do not pay. A thorough investigation and exposure of the fortunes of the Fifty Big Shots of Canada and the few thousand capitalists who trot along in their train, would reveal sources of public revenue that would fully meet the immediate needs of the situation, and lift the burden from our shoulders. We can pay no longer. The rich can and must be made to pay.

Do you agree with this? The People's Front can achieve this! In France for the past year, workers, farmers, storekeepers and professionals have bound themselves into a People's Front that has successfully resisted the designs of the rich, that has transferred some of the burdens of the depression on to the rich. The People's Front in France has caused the downfall of several governments who wished to carry on the old policy of making the poor pay. This People's Front has been the inspiration of the progressive elements in Europe and stirred them to greater efforts to build the unity that makes the rich pay. Here in Canada we can do the same!

Members of the C.C.F., workers, middle class people and intellectuals! The issues are clear! Either we continue to drag along in our present poverty, bearing upon our backs all the burdens of the depression or, by our unity we win through to make the rich pay.

By carrying through such a policy and with such unity we can:

Raise the standard of living of the employed and unemployed.

Bring greater security to all.

Relieve present destitution.

Prevent the Amalgamation of the C.P.R. and C.N.R.

Retain our democratic rights—repeal Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

The path is clear. The effort worth while. Make Canada truly a country for the people!

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For additional copies write to

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